

Notes From Value Added Reseller (VAR)/Data Distributor Panel

These notes capture comments offered by members of the VAR/Data Distributor Panel in a follow-up session to the Landsat Data Continuity Mission Workshop

Mission Characteristics

- Stay with current swath width.
- Keep current WRS scheme.
- Calibration and radiometric characteristics must allow interchangeable use of data with older (L7) data. If additional bands are used it should be possible to spectrally recombine to create the ETM+ suite of bands.
- Retain thermal band, although most Panel members had not yet utilized L7 thermal band.
- Weekly or twice-weekly revisit frequency would be better.
- Addition of a high-resolution bore-sight instrument for simultaneous acquisition (directed) would be useful.
- Direct communication to VAR sites of all data acquired was not recommended.

Products and Product Policy

- Full-scene, all-band products are preferred. Subsetting by bands is not necessary.
- Multi-scene (swath) products would be very useful.
- Government-supplied products should be limited to raw or systematically-corrected only.
- Providing products within 36 hours of receipt on the ground (the present spec) is sufficient for most needs.
- Need to have a more flexible, hi-speed pipeline to the “archive,” to either acquire full swath data products or to be able to subset and/or select by cloud cover, geographic coverage, etc.
- Data policy should not preclude sharing of data, as this chills the market (which is predominately “public good” data use right now)

Communication

- More well-publicized distribution of announcements of opportunity (such as data buys, etc.) would be appreciated.
- Opportunity to get briefed on algorithm development with respect to new missions and associated product processing requirements would be valuable.
- Pre-launch briefings for the community on system characteristics, sensor characteristics, operational plans and constraints, and processing algorithms are highly desirable.

General Concerns

- More aggressive solicitation of contracts by the USGS to support out-sourcing of product generation would be helpful.
- At all costs, avoid monopoly control of data product flow.
- Avoid “data buy” situations that result in establishing a competitive edge for the winner.
- Tiered pricing structure is not recommended.
- Keep the cost of the data to under \$1,000 per 185x185-km scene.
- No problem with a “science-driven” mission, as long as an efficient structure for data access is available to all.